

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Todd W. Pastrick  
For : VEHICLE EXTERIOR MIRROR SYSTEM WITH  
TURN SIGNAL LIGHT ASSEMBLY

Box Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, Applicant wishes to amend his application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

On page 1, line 1, please replace the title with the following new title:

VEHICLE EXTERIOR MIRROR SYSTEM WITH TURN SIGNAL LIGHT ASSEMBLY

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please replace the paragraph starting on line 3 and ending on line 5 with the following new paragraph:

This application is a continuation application under 37 CFR 1.53 of co-pending application Serial No. 09/596,015, filed on June 16, 2000, by Todd W. Pastrick, entitled VEHICLE EXTERIOR MIRROR SYSTEM WITH TURN SIGNAL LIGHT ASSEMBLY, now U.S. Patent No. 6,296,379, issuing on October 2, 2001, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/259,815, filed on February 26, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,086,229, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/933,375, filed on September 19, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,879,074, which is a continuation Serial No. 08/607,284, filed on February 26, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,669,704, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/426,591, filed on April 21, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,497,306, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/333,412, filed November 2, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,497,305, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/011,947, filed February 1, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,371,659.

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IN THE ABSTRACT:

On page 46, please replace the title and paragraph starting on line 1 with the following:

VEHICLE EXTERIOR MIRROR SYSTEM WITH TURN SIGNAL LIGHT ASSEMBLY

ABSTRACT

A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system for a vehicle includes an exterior mirror assembly that is adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle. The exterior mirror assembly includes a reflectance element that is moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of the reflectance element. The mirror system further includes a turn signal light assembly, which is fixedly mounted in the exterior mirror assembly separate from the reflectance element whereby movement of the reflectance element is independent of the turn signal light assembly. The turn signal light assembly comprises a light source and radiates light from the light source at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle. In one form, the turn signal assembly includes at least one louver, which is configured to shield the driver from light radiated by the light source.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-106 and add new Claims 107-245 as follows:

107. (New) A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system comprising:

an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;  
said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said reflectance element being moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of said reflectance element;

a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror assembly separate from said reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance element is independent of said turn signal light assembly;

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wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a light source;

said turn signal assembly radiating light from said light source at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle; and

said turn signal assembly including at least one louver, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said light source.

108. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 15 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

109. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 20 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

110. (New) The mirror system of Claim 109, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 25 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

111. (New) The mirror system of Claim 108, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of from at least approximately 25 degrees to about 30 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

112. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said light radiated by said light source comprises one of red colored light and amber colored light.

113. (New) The mirror system of Claim 112, wherein said amber colored light is provided by at least one of an amber light-emitting diode and an amber filtering lens.

114. (New). The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a lens and wherein said lens comprises one of a segmented lens, a prismatic lens, and a Fresnel lens.

115. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said turn signal light assembly

108. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 15 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

116. (New) The mirror system of Claim 115, wherein said light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

118. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107 wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of less than approximately 45 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

120. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said light source comprises one chosen from a red light-emitting diode and an amber light-emitting diode.

122. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said reflectance element comprises an electrochromic reflectance element.

124. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said signal light assembly

1. The first part of the report, which is the most important, is the one that deals with the results of the study. This part should be written in a clear and concise manner, and it should be supported by evidence.

132. (New) The mirror system of Claim 129, wherein said photosensor is part of one of

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an automatic mirror circuit, a vehicle headlamp activation circuit, and a headlamp daylight running light control circuit.

133. (New) The mirror system of Claim 129, wherein said photosensor is integral with said signal light assembly.

134. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a turn signal light module.

135. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a removable turn signal light module.

136. (New) The mirror system of Claim 107, wherein said light source comprises a plurality of light-emitting diodes.

137. (New) The mirror system of Claim 136, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes mounted on a circuit board.

138. (New) The mirror system of Claim 136, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes mounted at an angle on a circuit board.

139. (New) The mirror system of Claim 136, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes separated by louvers.

140. (New) The mirror system of Claim 136, wherein at least one of said light-emitting diodes is connected in series by a current limiting resistor for coupling to the ignition of the vehicle when mounted on the vehicle.

141. (New) A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system

comprising:

an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;  
said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said  
reflectance element being moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote  
positioning of said reflectance element;

a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror  
assembly separate from said reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance  
element is independent of said turn signal light assembly;

wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises at least one light source  
chosen from an incandescent light source, a light-emitting diode, a halogen light source, a  
fluorescent light source and a light pipe, said signal light assembly radiating light from said  
light source at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away  
from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle in order to  
shield the driver from light radiated by said signal light assembly, said light-radiating axis  
being at an angle of at least approximately 15 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the  
vehicle; and

wherein said turn signal light assembly is incorporated in said exterior  
mirror assembly in a manner that conforms to the styling and aerodynamic lines defined by  
said exterior mirror assembly.

142. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an  
angle of at least approximately 20 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

143. (New) The mirror system of Claim 142, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an  
angle of at least approximately 25 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

144. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an  
angle of from at least approximately 25 degrees to about 30 degrees from the longitudinal  
axis of the vehicle.

145. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said light radiated by said signal

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light assembly comprises one chosen from red colored light and amber colored light.

146. (New) The mirror system of Claim 145, wherein said amber colored light is provided by at least one chosen from an amber light-emitting diode and an amber filtering lens.

147. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a lens and wherein said lens comprises one chosen from a segmented lens, a prismatic lens, and a Fresnel lens.

148. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a light pipe.

149. (New) The mirror system of Claim 148, wherein said light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

150. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a reflector.

151. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of less than approximately 45 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

152. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a light-emitting diode.

153. (New) The mirror system of Claim 152, wherein said light-emitting diode comprises one of a red light-emitting diode and an amber light-emitting diode.

154. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said exterior mirror assembly incorporates a floodlight adapted to project another pattern of light generally downwardly and rearwardly on an area adjacent a portion of said vehicle in order to create a lighted

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security zone in said area.

155. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said reflectance element comprises an electrochromic reflectance element.

156. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, further comprising a breakaway joint assembly for mounting said exterior mirror assembly to the side of the vehicle.

157. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a lens portion configured for facing rearward of the vehicle and another lens portion that wraps around the side of said exterior mirror assembly outboard the mounting of said exterior mirror assembly to the side of the vehicle, said another lens portion projecting a pattern of light to function as a side marker for the vehicle.

158. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a filtering lens.

159. (New) The mirror system of Claim 158, wherein said filtering lens comprises an amber filtering lens.

160. (New) The mirror system of Claim 158, wherein said filtering lens comprises a red filtering lens.

161. (New). The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said turn signal assembly includes at least one louver, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said light source

162. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly is adapted for connection to a circuit comprising a photosensor, said signal light assembly emitting a light intensity, said circuit dimming said light intensity emitted from said signal light assembly when said signal light assembly operates under low ambient light conditions

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about said vehicle.

163. (New) The mirror system of Claim 162, wherein said circuit dims said light intensity emitted from said signal light assembly by pulse-width modulation.

164. (New) The mirror system of Claim 162, wherein said photosensor comprises one chosen from a photoresistor, a photodiode, and a phototransistor.

165. (New) The mirror system of Claim 162, wherein said photosensor is part of one chosen from an automatic mirror circuit, a vehicle headlamp activation circuit, and a headlamp daylight running light control circuit.

166. (New) The mirror system of Claim 162, wherein said photosensor is integral with said signal light assembly.

167. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a turn signal light module.

168. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a removable turn signal light module.

169. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting sources mounted at an angle on a circuit board.

170. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a plurality of individual light emitting sources separated by louvers.

171. (New) The mirror system of Claim 141, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a fluorescent light source.

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172. (New) A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system comprising:

an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;

said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said reflectance element being moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of said reflectance element;

a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror assembly separate from said reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance element is independent of said signal light assembly;

wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a light source;

said turn signal assembly radiating light from said light source at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle;

wherein said signal light assembly is incorporated in said exterior mirror assembly in a manner that conforms to the styling and aerodynamic lines defined by said exterior mirror assembly; and

wherein said signal light assembly is removably mounted in said exterior mirror assembly.

173. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 15 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

174. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 20 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

175. (New) The mirror system of Claim 174, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 25 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

176. (New) The mirror system of Claim 173, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of from at least approximately 25 degrees to about 30 degrees from the longitudinal

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axis of the vehicle.

177. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said light radiated by said light source comprises one chosen from red colored light and amber colored light.

178. (New) The mirror system of Claim 177, wherein said amber colored light is provided by at least one chosen from an amber light-emitting diode and an amber filtering lens.

179. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a lens and wherein said lens comprises one chosen from a segmented lens, a prismatic lens, and a Fresnel lens.

180. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a light pipe.

181. (New) The mirror system of Claim 180, wherein said light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

182. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a reflector.

183. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of less than approximately 45 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

184. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said light source comprises at least one light-emitting diode chosen from an orange light-emitting diode, a yellow light-emitting diode, a red light-emitting diode, an amber light-emitting diode and a reddish-orange light-emitting diode.

185. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said light source comprises one of

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a red light-emitting diode and an amber light-emitting diode.

186. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said exterior mirror assembly incorporates a floodlight adapted to project another pattern of light generally downwardly and rearwardly on an area adjacent a portion of said vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in said area.

187. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said reflectance element comprises an electrochromic reflectance element.

188. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said mounting of said exterior mirror assembly comprises a breakaway joint assembly.

189. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a lens portion configured for facing rearward of the vehicle and another lens portion that wraps around the side of said exterior mirror assembly outboard the mounting of said exterior mirror assembly to the side of the vehicle, said another lens portion projecting a pattern of light to function as a side marker for the vehicle.

190. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a filtering lens.

191. (New) The mirror system of Claim 190, wherein said filtering lens comprises an amber filtering lens.

192. (New) The mirror system of Claim 190, wherein said filtering lens comprises a red filtering lens.

193. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said turn signal assembly includes at least one louver, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said light source

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194. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said signal light assembly is adapted for connection to a circuit comprising a photosensor, said signal light assembly emitting a light intensity, said circuit dimming said light intensity emitted from said signal light assembly when said signal light assembly operates under low ambient light conditions about said vehicle.

195. (New) The mirror system of Claim 194, wherein said circuit dims said light intensity emitted from said signal light assembly by pulse-width modulation.

196. (New) The mirror system of Claim 194, wherein said photosensor comprises one chosen from a photoresistor, a photodiode, and a phototransistor.

197. (New) The mirror system of Claim 194, wherein said photosensor is part of one chosen from an automatic mirror circuit, a vehicle headlamp activation circuit, and a headlamp daylight running light control circuit.

198. (New) The mirror system of Claim 194, wherein said photosensor is integral with said signal light assembly.

199. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a turn signal light module.

200. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, , wherein said turn signal light assembly is substantially moisture impervious.

201. (New) The mirror system of Claim 172, wherein said light source comprises a plurality of light-emitting diodes

202. (New) The mirror system of Claim 204, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes mounted on a circuit board.

203. (New) The mirror system of Claim 201, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes mounted at an angle on a circuit board.

204. (New) The mirror system of Claim 201, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises individual light-emitting diodes separated by louvers.

205. (New) The mirror system of Claim 201, wherein at least one of said light-emitting diodes is connected in series by a current limiting resistor for coupling to the ignition of the vehicle when mounted on the vehicle.

206. (New) A vehicular exterior rearview mirror system suitable for use on a vehicle, the vehicle including a passenger compartment and a longitudinal axis, said mirror system comprising:

an exterior mirror assembly adapted for mounting to a side of a vehicle;

said exterior mirror assembly including a reflectance element, said reflectance element being moveably mounted on an actuator for providing remote positioning of said reflectance element;

a turn signal light assembly fixedly mounted in said exterior mirror assembly separate from said positionable reflectance element whereby movement of said reflectance element is independent of said signal light assembly;

wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a light source;

said turn signal assembly radiating light from said light source at least along a light-radiating axis that extends generally rearwardly away from the passenger compartment of the vehicle when operated on the vehicle;

wherein said signal light assembly is incorporated in said exterior mirror assembly in a manner that conforms to the styling and aerodynamic lines defined by said exterior mirror assembly; and

wherein said signal light assembly comprises an enclosure having a heat distortion temperature of at least approximately 80 degrees Celsius.

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207. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 15 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

208. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 20 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

209. (New) The mirror system of Claim 208, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of at least approximately 25 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

210. (New) The mirror system of Claim 207, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of from at least approximately 25 degrees to about 30 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

211. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said light radiated by said light source comprises one chosen from red colored light and amber colored light.

212. (New) The mirror system of Claim 211, wherein said amber colored light is provided by at least one chosen from an amber light-emitting diode and an amber filtering lens.

213. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a lens and wherein said lens comprises one chosen from a segmented lens, a prismatic lens, and a Fresnel lens.

214. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a light pipe.

215. (New) The mirror system of Claim 214, wherein said light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.



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216. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a reflector.

217. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said light-radiating axis is at an angle of less than approximately 45 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

218. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said light source comprises at least one light-emitting diode chosen from an orange light-emitting diode, a yellow light-emitting diode, a red light-emitting diode, an amber light-emitting diode, and a reddish-orange light-emitting diode.

219. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said light source comprises one chosen from a red light-emitting diode and an amber light-emitting diode.

220. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said exterior mirror assembly incorporates a floodlight adapted to project another pattern of light generally downwardly and rearwardly on an area adjacent a portion of said vehicle in order to create a lighted security zone in said area.

221. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said reflectance element comprises an electrochromic reflectance element.

222. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, further comprising a breakaway joint assembly for mounting said exterior mirror assembly to the side of the vehicle.

223. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a lens portion configured for facing rearward of the vehicle and another lens portion that wraps around the side of said exterior mirror assembly outboard the mounting of said exterior mirror assembly to the side of the vehicle, said another lens portion projecting a pattern of light to function as a side marker for the vehicle.

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224. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said signal light assembly comprises a filtering lens.

225. (New) The mirror system of Claim 224, wherein said filtering lens comprises an amber filtering lens.

226. (New) The mirror system of Claim 224, wherein said filtering lens comprises a red filtering lens.

227. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said turn signal assembly includes at least one louver, said at least one louver configured in order to shield the driver from light radiated by said light source

228. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said signal light assembly is adapted for connection to a circuit comprising a photosensor, said signal light assembly emitting a light intensity, said circuit dimming said light intensity emitted from said signal light assembly when said signal light assembly operates under low ambient light conditions about said vehicle.

229. (New) The mirror system of Claim 228, wherein said circuit dims said light intensity emitted from said signal light assembly by pulse-width modulation.

230. (New) The mirror system of Claim 228, wherein said photosensor comprises one chosen from a photoresistor, a photodiode, and a phototransistor.

231. (New) The mirror system of Claim 228, wherein said photosensor is part of one chosen from an automatic mirror circuit, a vehicle headlamp activation circuit, and a headlamp daylight running light control circuit.

232. (New) The mirror system of Claim 228, wherein said photosensor is integral with said signal light assembly.

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233. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a turn signal light module.

234. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said turn signal light assembly comprises a removable turn signal light module.

235. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said light source comprises a plurality of light-emitting diodes

236. (New) The mirror system of Claim 235, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes mounted on a circuit board.

237. (New) The mirror system of Claim 235, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes mounted at an angle on a circuit board.

238. (New) The mirror system of Claim 235, wherein said plurality of light-emitting diodes comprises a plurality of individual light-emitting diodes separated by louvers.

239. (New) The mirror system of Claim 235, wherein at least one of said light-emitting diodes is connected in series by a current limiting resistor for coupling to the ignition of the vehicle when mounted on the vehicle.

240. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said heat distortion temperature is at least 100° C.

241. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said heat distortion temperature is at least 120° C.

242. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said enclosure comprises a material chosen from a nylon material, a polyester material, a mineral-filled nylon material, a glass-filled nylon material, a mineral-filled polyester material, a glass-filled

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polyester material, an ABS polymer material, and a polycarbonate material.

243. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said turn signal light assembly is substantially moisture impervious.

244. (New) The mirror system of Claim 206, wherein said turn signal light assembly includes a light transmitting opening, said signal light assembly further comprising a cover, said cover covering said light transmitting opening.

245. (New) The mirror system of Claim 244, wherein said cover comprises an optic chosen from a diffractive optic, a diffusive optic, a refractive optic, a reflective optic, a holographic optic, a binary optic, and a sinusoidal optic.

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REMARKS

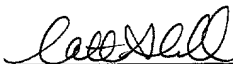
Prior to examination, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments set forth above to the specification and claims be entered in the application. No new matter has been added by any of these amendments or claims. The amendments and claims are fully supported by the disclosure as originally filed. Entry of these amendments, and examination of the application based on the above amendments, including new Claims 107-245, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD W. PASTRICK

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

September 28, 2001  
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